

Association, LMA, in recognition of their 90th anniversary.

Founded in 1926, the Louisiana Conference of Mayors was created with the purpose of providing a forum for mutual consultation and discussion of various topics affecting municipal government. The organization also aided the growth and development of each municipality through education about best practices and problem solving. Shortly after the Louisiana Conference of Mayors was created, the Great Depression swept the Nation. In 1937, a handful of resilient mayors met to revive the organization, giving it new life as the Louisiana Municipal Association. They may not have foreseen that their tenacity in overcoming adversity during the Great Depression and taking proactive steps to keep Louisiana municipalities united and strong would form the basis for the core values to which the LMA still adheres today.

From its inception, the LMA has focused on helping local elected leaders create and maintain efficient and effective municipal governments. In 1987, the nonprofit, nonpartisan LMA created Risk Management, Inc., RMI, to address the insurance and liability demands of member municipalities through its inter-local risk pool. In 1999, the Louisiana Municipal Advisory and Technical Services Bureau, Inc., LaMATS, was created with the purpose of providing essential services to assist municipalities in their day-to-day operations.

In addition to these wholly owned subsidiaries, the LMA has three political subdivisions—Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority, Unemployment Compensation Fund, and Louisiana Community Development Authority; four advisory organizations—Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, Louisiana Rural Water Association, Louisiana Conference of Mayors, and Louisiana Municipal Black Caucus Association; and nine affiliate organizations—Municipal Employees Retirement System, Louisiana City Attorneys Association, Louisiana Association of Municipal Secretaries and Assistants, Louisiana Recreation and Parks Association, Louisiana Association of Tax Administrators, Louisiana Municipal Clerks Association, Building Officials Association of Louisiana, Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates, and Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association.

To fulfill its mission of educating its membership and providing a forum for discussion about common issues, solutions, and problem solving, the LMA holds an annual convention, a mid-winter conference, 10 district meetings, a municipal day during the State's legislative session, and 15 or more webinars.

For decades, the LMA has had tremendous legislative success on both State and Federal levels. In the Louisiana Legislature, the LMA has been a strong voice for Louisiana municipalities in efforts to fight blight, promote law enforcement, maintain funding,

and enhance economic growth. On the Federal level, the LMA joined forces with the National League of Cities and other coastal State municipal leagues to lead the charge in lobbying Congress to enact the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014, which enacted critical reforms to the Biggert Waters Act of 2012, thereby facilitating affordable homeowner flood insurance in Louisiana and across the country.

For 90 years, the LMA has worked to strengthen the backbone of Louisiana through support and empowerment of municipal government. The organization has launched a yearlong celebration of this anniversary by naming 2016 the Year of Education. Opening festivities for this theme will commence at the midwinter conference in February under the auspices of the 2016 LMA Executive Board officers—President Mayor Carroll Breaux of Springhill, First Vice President Mayor Barney Arceneaux of Gonzales, Second Vice President Mayor Lawrence Henagan of DeQuincy, Immediate Past President Mayor David Camardelle of Grand Isle, and District A Vice President Mayor Jimmy Williams of Sibley. The executive director is Ronnie Harris, former 28-year mayor of Gretna.

What started out as a collection of 29 forward-thinking mayors seeking to empower their communities has evolved into a praiseworthy organization that has earned the esteem and trust of local, State, and Federal elected officials, as well as fellow municipal leagues.

We would like to congratulate the LMA on its 90th anniversary and wish them many more years of strength and excellence.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4228. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on gifts made for the benefit of military musical units; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4229. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of

Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 560) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4230. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Commerce's 2016 Report on Foreign Policy-Based Export Controls; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4231. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Removal of 24 CFR 280—Nehemiah Housing Opportunity Grants Program" (RIN2502-AJ31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 21, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4232. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4233. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure 2016-4" (Rev. Proc. 2016-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4234. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure 2016-6" (Rev. Proc. 2016-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4235. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure 2016-8" (Rev. Proc. 2016-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4236. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the use of the exemption from the antitrust laws provided by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4237. A communication from the Chair, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines that were proposed by the Commission during the 2015–2016 amendment cycle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4238. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; 2015 CNMI Longline Bigeye Tuna Fishery; Closure" (RIN0648-XE329) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4239. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's decision to enter into a contract with a private